

James Wood to George Washington, July 7, 1758, 19th-century transcription by William B. Sprague, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM JAMES WOOD.¹

WINCHESTER 7 July 1758.

SIR

The 24th. of this month is appointed the day for the election. Mr. Jones has promised to be here. I wish with him & the rest of your friends that it was possible you could be present to give life to the cause. I have done my endeavor to search into the opinions of the people, and cannot perceive your interest on the decline, tho' some try to persuade me to the contrary. I must own experience has convinced me there is no relying on the promises of the common herd, the promise is too often forgot when the back is turned. There are many of us embarked in the same cause with you, and a disappointment will set heavy on us.

If the duty of your station will permit, come down and show your face.² I think I can then promise success. If you cannot, depend nothing in my power shall be wanting to promote your interest. Mrs. Wood and the rest of the family send their compliments.

I am, Sir, with respect, Yr. humble servt. J. WOOD.³

¹ The Associate of Gabriel Jones. It was Colonel Wood who sat on the bench and represented or took the poll for Washington, and who was "carried round the town in the midst of a general applause and huzzaring for Colonel Washington." Joseph Carroll was clerk of Washington's poll.

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2 Having resolved to quit the army at the close of the present campaign, Colonel Washington had proposed himself to the Electors of Frederick County, as a candidate for the House of Burgesses. The election was now approaching, and some of his friends had urged him to be at Winchester on that occasion, fearing the successful activity of three rival candidates. Regarding his duties in the army, however, as outweighing the considerations of personal interest, he remained at his post, and the election was carried through without his presence.—SPARKS.

3 From a copy. Throughout the original manuscript collection of the Letters to Washington there are copies of letters inserted in lieu of the original letter. The originals were given away probably by Bushrod Washington when the manuscripts were at Mount Vernon.